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SAUDI ARABIA NATIONAL GUARD (SANG)

BY

COLONEL BANDAR O. NAHIL AL HARBI
Saudi Arabia National Guard

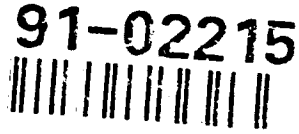
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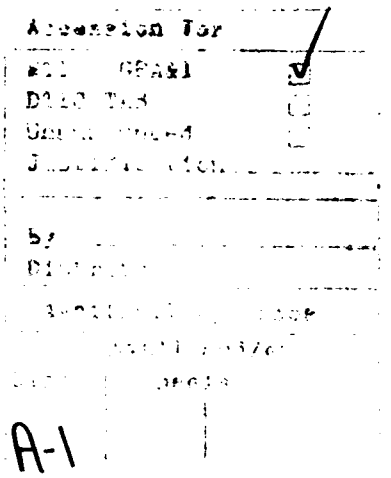
SAUDI ARABIA NATIONAL GUARD (SANG)

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AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY PROJECT

by:

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SAUDI ARABIA NATIONAL GUARD (SANG)



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ABSTRACT

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Saudi Arabian National Guard is considered as one sector of the Kingdom's armed forces under the general command of its supreme commander in chief King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the custodian of the two Holy mosques.

B. The National Guard role is not limited to its being a military force which only performs its military duties, it actually transcends beyond that to include a great participation in the modern development of the Kingdom in areas of construction, education, health care, Islamic education, and athletic activities. The National Guard, besides establishing the most up-to-date military establishments, has also constructed military cities encompassing thousands of living quarters for dependents of its members in various parts of the Kingdom. These living quarters were furnished with all living necessities, including mosques, schools with all levels of education, clinics, and hospitals to provide the most adequate health care to the National Guard members and their families. The services rendered by these hospitals are not limited to the National Guard members only; they are available to the public also. Education and sport clubs were created to help cultivate the good morals derived from our Islamic religion and develop the physical build of the members' children.

C. Additionally, the National Guard participates in different activities in areas like religion, education, culture, health, and sports. The National Guard sponsors and hosts the annual cultural festival, which is usually held in the capital city of Riyadh, where different parts of the country participate. The festival introduces to the Saudi generation the past history of their forefathers and the way they used to live. It also educates the Saudi youth about the past and present of their Kingdom.

D. The Islamic affairs within the National Guard publishes a great number of books, booklets, and brochures, which it distributes to the public in all religious occasions, pilgrimage season, and it provides guidance and advises to Muslims. The public relations department on the other hand publishes papers and magazines to be distributed to all the National Guard personnel. The National Guard publications are available to the public in the markets aiming at the general awareness and education of its people.

E. The National Guard participates in all sports events in the country, and shooting competitions within the Kingdom and abroad.

F. The department of medical services provides health awareness to the National Guard personnel and the public

through leaflets, designed programs, and lectures from time to time. Finally, it participates in the "Tree Week", "Cleanliness Week", "Traffic Week", and many other national occasions.

G. Having concluded my introduction, I would like to briefly discuss the following points:

1. The history of the National Guard
2. The organization and formation of the National Guard
3. Duties of the National Guard
4. The development of the National Guard
5. The prospective future of the National Guard

II. HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

A. To better understand the SANG today, one must look back into the history of the founding of the National Guard. In September 1901, the young King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Ibn Faisal Al-Saud returned from Kuwait with a small number of about 60 men of his most faithful followers to recapture the Arabian Peninsula from the Ruler Ibn Rashid, and spare its people from the suffering, poverty, separation, and ignorance. Surely so, he travelled by night, and rested and hid during the day among the rocks and sand dunes of the desert. When

the King reached Riyadh, he led the tiny force to a part of the wall which he knew would permit entrance and they climbed into the town undetected. Climbing up to the roof, they jumped from terrace to terrace along the line of the houses until they reached the one belonging to the Amir (leader) Ajlan. The garrison of the fortress was taken off its guard and Ajlan was killed in the attack. The shock of the assault and the death of their leader completely demoralized them. The daring of the King's attack deceived them into thinking that he had invaded the town with a huge force, and the garrison laid down their arms immediately and surrendered.

B. In the moment of victory, one of the King's men went to the highest tower of the fortress and proclaimed to the waking city: "There is none but Prince Abdulaziz Ibn Saud. All is peace and safety!" The King had now recovered his capital, but it remained for him to win the hearts of the people and his Kingdom. Local chiefs came in scores to Riyadh to offer their allegiance to the King and support with all the means they have to united the country and raise high the call for Islam, hence the inception of the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

C. Recent history indicates that the first step in building the Saudi State was initiated by King Abdulaziz in 1901. Between 1901 and 1932, the National Guard was

continually active in fierce battles and sacrifices, stemming from the deep affection to this country and absolute loyalty to the great leadership of King Abdulaziz Al-Saud. On September 23, 1932, the Saudi Arabian "National Day" was proclaimed. The Saudi Arabian National Guard, consisting of the sons and grandsons of those men who struggled with the late venerated King Abdulaziz Bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud, sacrificing with their lives, their sons' lives, their wealth, and everything they own to unite the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. When the Kingdom was declared "United", King Abdulaziz ordered the formation of the National Guard with this group of men. Improvement of the armed forces has been a continuing effort, based on the requirement.

D. His Excellency Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Tuweijri, deputy assistant director of the National Guard, who is one of the founders and most devoted men to the National Guard, mentioned in an article published in the first military magazine issued by the National Guard that, "After 1932, when the Saudi State was established with its current borders, King Abdulaziz has issued a decree to maintain the way in which the state was created, so he decided to preserve the struggle record. Therefore, he instructed to continue with the National Guard to serve as motto for past struggle and future hope, because, according to

what he said, construction could be best preserved and guarded by the constructor himself."

E. The National Guard consisted of many Fouj, (battalion) of 1,000 riflemen with ordinary vehicles until 1962 when a Royal Decree was issued assigning his Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to be the commander of the National Guard. His Highness worked zealously to improve the capabilities and performance of the National Guard by providing military expertise from within the Kingdom and the outside world. Effective annual plans were established to improve the standards of formation, armament, and training to bring the National Guard up to its assumed tasks and duties.

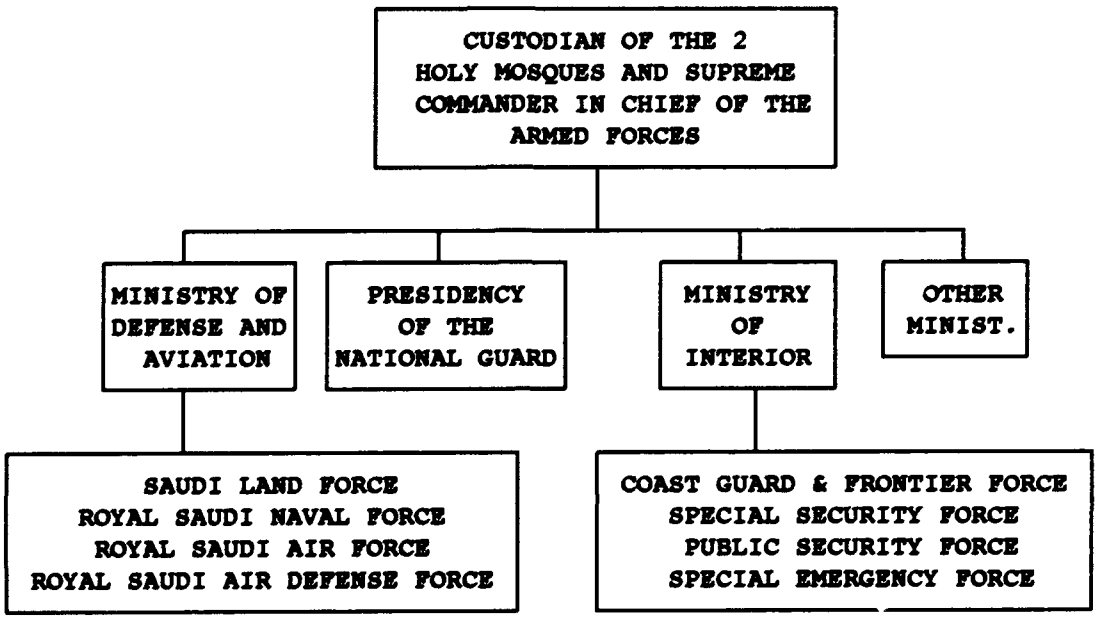
F. In 1967, a Royal Decree was issued assigning His Royal Highness Prince Badr Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to be the deputy director of the SANG, where he participated in the improvement of the development plans.

III. SANG CURRENT ORGANIZATION

A. King Fahad is the Supreme Commander in Chief of all the Kingdom armed forces as shown at Figure 1. Note that the title of the National Guard is different (Presidency instead of Minister). However, all of the organizations

report directly to the King. The Minister of Defense and Aviation and the Minister of Interior with each of these organizations has an independent budget.

FIGURE 1.



B. The National Guard, like any other independent military formation, has its own comprehensive organizational structure (see Figure 2., attached). All people working in the major staff offices are military personnel, with the exception of the commander of the National Guard, his deputy, and assistant deputy; they are civilians. There are also other civilian administrations. Among them is the financial administration, legal and general services, and some other administrations which were

created to serve and support the military sector. The main headquarters is located at the Capital City of Riyadh in the geographic center of the Kingdom. Note there are Eastern and Western SANG deputies and military commands which report to the Commanding General of the military organization system command. The logistic base command is located in Riyadh with supporting units in Eastern and Western areas. There are signal and medical corps units; each run their own schools.

C. Soldier recruitment is strictly confined to Saudi nationals, and enlisting in the National Guard is voluntary. As well as other Saudi forces, the National Guard concentrated on establishing training centers throughout the Kingdom. Three training centers were established in Riyadh, the Western Region, and the Eastern Province to receive recruits and train them on basic skill for a period of six months before they are distributed to their units. These centers are designed to accommodate 2,000 people at one time, with the ability to expand to twice this number if the need arises.

D. The National Guard has an excellent military school system located in Riyadh. The mission, organization, and listing of some of the available courses are shown at Figure 3., attached. The school system can accomo-

date over 2,000 soldiers and officers training in multiple courses of different lengths at the same time.

E. The National Guard schools conduct courses in the English language. When the officer reaches a basic standard for writing and speaking English, he is sent to the U.S. military language school in Texas for advanced study. Once he graduates from the advanced language school, the officer attends basic and advanced officer courses in the U.S. Army officer school system.

F. KING KHALD MILITARY ACADEMY: The National Guard established the Military Academy - to qualify and graduate Saudi officers. This Academy graduates more than 500 officers every year according to the needs of the National Guard. Officer candidates, in order to qualify for the Academy, must have their high school diploma. Students spend three years of study before they graduate as second lieutenants.

G. The National Guard created opportunities for Saudi university graduates who were recruited according to their field of specialty (medical, engineers), and trained them militarily for one year and graduated them as officers. This program is still in progress and is considered to be the second source of providing officers, next to the Military Academy.

H. As a continuing tradition, a SANG special unit of horse cavalry, mounted on descendants of the original Arabian horses, is maintained for ceremonial purposes and special events.

IV. SANG MISSIONS:

A. As the military strategy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is defending the country, its Holy places, and other resources within the Kingdom, Saudi Arabia has no inclination for expansion or desire to interfere in other nations' affairs. This was announced to the world by King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz, the custodian of the two Holy mosques, and was affirmed by his Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the first deputy and commander of the National Guard. Some of the key missions are to:

1. support the Ministry of Defense to protect the Kingdom;

2. maintain security and stability within the borders of the Kingdom by supporting the Minister of Interior; and

3. protect vital installations throughout the Kingdom.

V. SANG MODERNIZATIONS

A. The modernization program of SANG was formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of the United States and Saudi Arabia, effective March 19, 1973, signed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, commander of the Saudi Arabian National Guard, and the Honorable Nicholas G. Thacher, then U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Under the terms of the agreement, the United States agreed:

> "To provide technical and supervisory assistance to the government of Saudi Arabia in connection with: preparation of a National Guard Modernization Plan to cover such functions as organization, training, procurement, construction, maintenance, supply, and administrative support; development and administration of training programs, procurement of facilities, materials, equipment, and services necessary to implement the Plan. Supervision of the design and construction of training, maintenance, supply, and communication facilities, and other facilities related thereto, as necessary to implement the plan. Management of the establishment and operation of training, administrative, and logistic support elements."

B. The United States Government further agreed to provide defense articles and service related to the Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program to the Government of Saudi Arabia on a reimbursable basis under the Foreign Military Sales Act. Articles to be provided include: small arms, artillery, vehicles, communications equipment, ammunition, and other items. Services to be provided include the development,

construction, management, and operation of communications, training, logistics, and maintenance support facilities and service-related thereto. Services will be carried out by Army material command.

C. One important point of the modernization plan is to prepare SANG officers and NCO's to take over the National Guard Modernization responsibilities. The program was started in 1975. In 1982, the National Guard took their responsibility and continues to modernize their units with a limited number of program advisors, because National Guard personnel became very qualified and professional and able to carry this responsibility.

D. The National Guard modernization developed brigade combat forces to be organized as shown in the graphic at Figure 4, attached. As you may recognize, the brigade organization is similar to the American Army's separate brigades. The staff covers the personnel, intelligence, operations, supply, and communications functions. The four battalions are mechanized with four-wheel armored vehicles which can accommodate a 90mm gun or tow launcher, or 81mm motor or 20mm cannons and 50-caliber and 7.62mm machine guns, plus a squad of eight soldiers including a driver and commander/ gunner. Note that the brigade has 155mm artillery plus engineer, signal, medical, and logistics units. The brigade strength is

approximately 5,000 officers and soldiers. These brigades are located in the Eastern, Central, and Western areas of the Kingdom where they have their own field training centers.

E. The National Guard has also benefitted from the expertise of the British Army in training for counter demonstration and riot control in populated areas. It had invited officers from the British Army to train Saudi officers in the Kingdom. SANG officers were also sent to England for military schooling.

F. The National Guard aspires to develop and expand the modernization program in areas including larger formations, heavier armament, and command and control training to be a formidable shield to our beloved Kingdom, side by side with our other Saudi Armed Forces. The current threat from Iraq will cause a quick acceleration in our future modernization.

VI. SANG MISSIONS AND MODERNIZATION FOR THE FUTURE

A. Threat Analysis:

1. The Iraq war with Iran, much of which was fought in close proximity to the Saudi Arabian border, did

not appear to be a major threat to Saudi Arabia, especially with Kuwait as a neutral land buffer. Saudi Arabia has been a peaceful nation with minimum military internal defensive forces and a generous benefactor by providing monetary grants in aid and material support to the Muslim nations surrounding and adjacent to it. However, the shock imparted by Iraq's surprise attack and occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, and the subsequent Iraqi threat imposed on Saudi Arabian land and its citizens, caused an immediate and drastic change in requirements for military defensive forces.

2. The Iraqi threat in Kuwait and along the Saudi Arabian northern border has caused SANG, as part of the Saudi Arabian land forces, to accelerate into a "crash" modernization program. This new modernization probably will not be ready in time to assist the current SANG forces involved in the Desert Storm operations. However, if faced with the possibility of a future threat after the conclusion of Desert Storm, SANG must be modernized and ready to repel any invader and to defend all borders with the Saudi Arabian Army forces.

B. Revised SANG Missions:

1. Provide security and screening forces for the Kingdom boundary:

 a) The boundary is large, therefore, forces need to be fast, mobile forces capable of engagement and interruption of invading opponent forces. Then, if necessary, fight side by side with the Saudi Arabian Army Forces.

2. Protect the Saudi Arabian Army forces rear area from airborne/air-mobile attacks, and secure the logistics lines of support to front line units.

3. Defend the vital installations such as religious sites, oil fields and refineries, telecommunications sites, and water distillation facilities:

 a) Saudi Arabia is the administrator and protector of Mecca and Medina, the Muslim religion's holiest places.

 b) Oil field sites and refineries have been subject to terrorist attacks.

4. Maintain security and stability within the Kingdom by supporting the Interior Ministry.

a) Saudi Arabia has a small native population compared to the size of the country, but due to the fast pace of the 1970's and 80's in building roads, waterlines, and multi-story structures, the influx of foreign workers was large at times and needed constant supervision.

b) Many Muslims of different nationalities, numbering in the millions, visit Mecca each year during HADJ.

5. Provide a ready (active) force for operations anywhere within the Kingdom:

a) This mission is difficult due to the size of Saudi Arabia, and will cause trade-offs between:

(1) the size of the force versus the country's population to support it;

(2) the mobility and speed of the force versus the location of military site stationing to potential trouble area; and

(3) decentralized command and control versus centralized command and control.

C. Planning Considerations:

1. The major planning considerations for SANG future modernization were:

a) The threat can come from any direction.

b) Defense must begin at the national borders.

c) Defense of the homeland must be performed by Saudi Forces.

d) Most Saudi male citizens must participate in their Armed Forces.

e) Past training paid dividends in the rapid movement of SANG units to the border to meet the crisis at the border.

f) Enhance logistics support for units engaged in combat.

g) Current size and armament of the SANG forces need enhancement.

h) Need combat balance in the SANG forces.

i) Current stationing of the SANG forces must be based on mission requirements.

j) The sustainability of SANG forces must be improved to permit side by side operations with the Army.

2. Planning for the type, size, equipment, and support of new SANG units and enhancement of current SANG forces began in late August 1990, with assistance of the current U.S. Army advisory element located in Riyadh. In December 1990, the major points of discussion between SANG and the United States Army project manager were:

-- This modernization is a SANG program, not a U.S. program. SANG officers will decide missions, objectives, organizational concepts, size, type equipment, and time tables for modernization.

-- SANG will fund the entire modernization program to include increased U.S. Army advisory personnel and support, if needed.

-- The U.S. Army program manager will advise, support, and monitor the program execution jointly with SANG leadership.

D. The SANG Commanders' Operational Concept:

1. The Saudi Arabian National Guard will be expeditiously organized, equipped, and trained to be capable to deter or win in combat due to:

a) well-trained, highly motivated soldiers and leaders;

b) units armed and equipped with superior, more lethal weapons;

c) improved command and control by the streamlining of headquarters and utilization of deployable battle staff;

d) force positioning, in assigned mission areas, of a highly mobile, motorized force capable of responding immediately to a threatened area;

e) a backup combat support command with the capability to provide increased combat multipliers and flexibility (artillery, aviation, engineers); and

f) a greatly-improved and expanded logistics infrastructure to provide combat staying power.

E. Proposed Future SANG Organization For Combat:

1. SANG forces will be organized into combat brigades, one combat support command, and one logistic base command (see graphic at Figure 5., attached).

2. SANG will locate forces in three separate areas: Eastern Area, Central Area; and Western Area.

VII. CONCLUSION

A. The Saudi Arabian National Guard has steadily progressed forward since 1932 when the Saudi Arabia National Day was proclaimed. Since 1962, under the command of his Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, SANG has taken a giant step forward in modernizing the military school system and originating the Military Academy. During this time the National Guard placed continued emphasis on the support programs for military and civilian families. In 1973, Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, following his vision for modernization, began a long-term program to reorganize and

concurrently modernize the combat forces through a cooperative agreement with the American Department of Defense. The current National Guard is a capable, internal security armed force for its mission.

B. Due to the threat imposed on the Kingdom by Iraq, the new SANG modernization is a very ambitious program and one to be expedited. It is difficult to draw a time line on program completion, however, full preparations are now underway to recruit the necessary personnel and purchase the best equipment within a year. If Desert Storm is a short war, it is expected that the United States Army will leave additional United States personnel in Saudi Arabia to increase the U.S. program general manager's training staff. Much of the needed equipment is already on order, and it is anticipated that some of the equipment, which is compatible with SANG requirements, will be left in Saudi Arabia by United States Forces upon their departure. Through maximum use of the school training base and the great leadership of Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, SANG will be ready and able to meet and defeat any enemy of the Kingdom by fighting side by side with the combat units of the Saudi Arabian Army forces.

VIII. FOOTNOTE

A. I mentioned in the introduction that the National Guard Medical Corps hospitals treat the public besides the SANG personnel. This is as a SANG participation, although we have a health ministry to take care of the public treatment.

B. National Guard participates by advising and publishing Islamic books for SANG personnel and the public although we have the justice ministry which is one of their responsibilities.

C. All the SANG participation, as I mentioned in the introduction, is not a National Guard responsibility because there are other ministries or departments responsible for these things in the Kingdom. The National Guard as a civilized establishment helps to bring Saudi to a higher civilization, following the King's philosophy.

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MILITARY ORGANIZATION SYSTEMS COMMAND

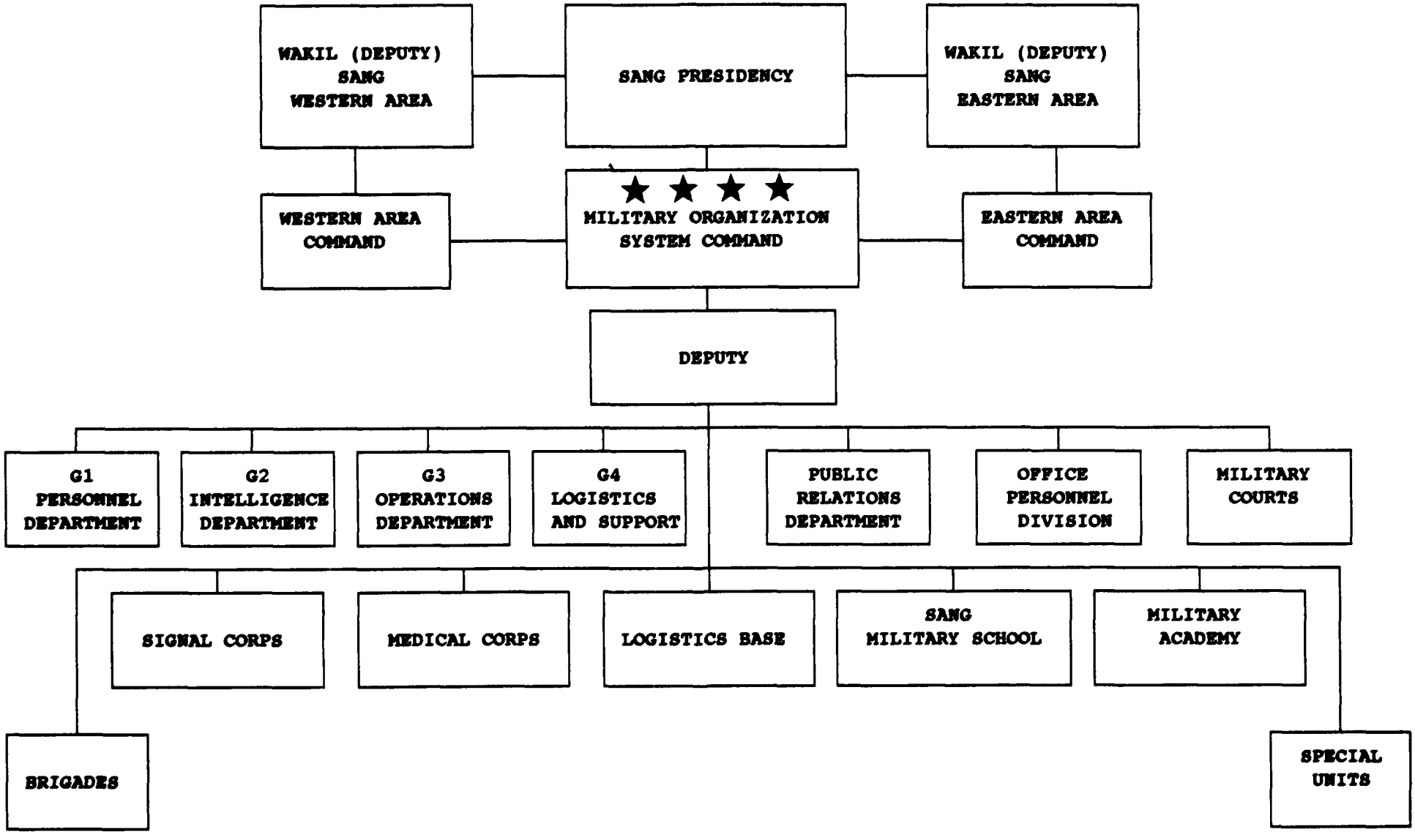


FIGURE 2

ATTACHMENT

NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY SCHOOLS

MISSION: Develops, administers, and provides institutional programs for the education and training of officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the modernized and non-modernized National Guard. Develops and evaluates National Guard doctrine.

FUNCTIONS

- Exercises overall direction of all functions pertaining to training development, support, operations, planning, and administrative services

- Provides command, control, and administrative support and services for students and personnel assigned or attached

- Trains officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers to man operational units

- Trains officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers to man operational unit support service positions in the National Guard

- Provides Mobile Training Teams (MTT) and New Equipment Training Teams (NETT) as required

FIGURE 3

NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY SCHOOLS (NGMS)

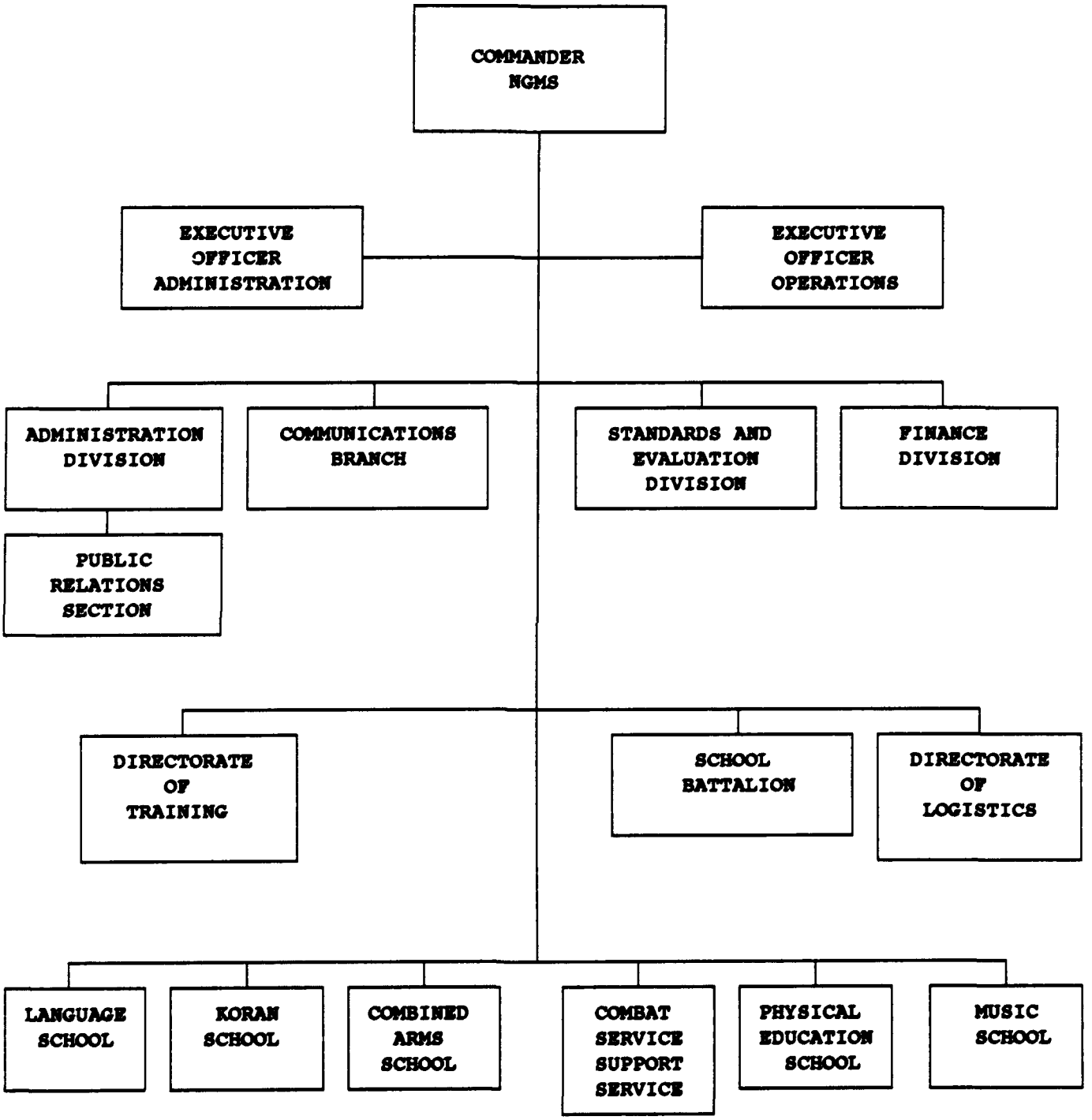


FIGURE 3.1

ATTACHMENT

AVAILABLE COURSES

POI#	TITLE	MOS
001	INSTRUCTOR TRAINING	-
020	PRIMARY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER	**O.D.
023	BASIC NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER	**O.D.
025	ADVANCED NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER	**O.D.
028	INTELLIGENCE OFFICER	-
041	INFANTRY OFFICER BASIC	-
051	COMBINED ARMS OFFICER ADVANCED	-
061	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	-
071	EQUIPMENT READINESS	-
102	MEDICAL SPECIALIST	91B
105	MILITARY POLICEMAN	95B
107	MAP READING & LAND NAVIGATION SYSTEM (MARK 4)	
203	INFANTRYMAN	11B
206	TOW GUNNER	11H(T)
207	RECONNAISSANCE SPECIALIST	-
213	BASIC SKILLS TRAINING	09B
215	ANTIARMOR WEAPONS CREWMAN	11H
217	ANTIARMOR PLATOON LEADER/PLATOON SERGEANT	-
218	MORTAR PLATOON LEADER/PLATOON SERGEANT	-
219	INDIRECT FIRE INFANTRYMAN	11C
225	LOGISTICS OFFICER BASIC	-
302	VULCAN CREWMAN	16B
304	VULCAN SYSTEM MECHANIC	24M
402	CANNON CREWMAN	13B
403	CANNON FIRE DIRECTION SPECIALIST	13E
404	FIELD ARTILLERY SURVEYOR	82C
407	FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER BASIC	-
408	FIRE SUPPORT SPECIALIST	13F
504	RADIO OPERATOR	05B

FIGURE 3-2

AVAILABLE COURSES (CONTINUED)

POI#	TITLE	MOS
505	TACTICAL WIREMAN	36K
506	TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC	31V
605	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	71L
665	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	-
700	WHEEL VEHICLE DRIVER	64C
703	POWER GENERATION OPERATOR/MECHANIC	52B
707	TURRET MECHANIC	45N
708	WELDER	44C
709	WHEEL VEHICLE MECHANIC	63B
710	TOW REPAIRER	27E
712	RECOVERY SPECIALIST	63F
715	SMALL ARMS REPAIRER	45B
720	FIRE CONTROL INSTRUMENT REPAIRER	41C
730	ARTILLERY REPAIRER	45L
731	FIELD ARTILLERY WEAPONS MECHANIC	13B(U)
735	TURRET REPAIRER	45K
745	VULCAN REPAIRER	27F
760	LIGHT WHEEL VEHICLE REPAIRER	63R
761	HEAVY WHEEL VEHICLE REPAIRER	63S
765	FUEL AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS REPAIRER	63G
801	COMBAT ENGINEER	12B
820	POWER GENERATION EQUIPMENT REPAIRER	52D
830	ENGINEER EQUIPMENT REPAIRER	62B
902	UNIT SUPPLY SPECIALIST	76Y
922	MATERIAL SUPPLY SPECIALIST	76D
923	STOCK CONTROL SPECIALIST	76P
924	PETROLEUM SUPPLY SPECIALIST	76W
929	AMMUNITION SPECIALIST	55B

** OCCUPATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FIGURE 3-3

MECHANIZED BRIGADE

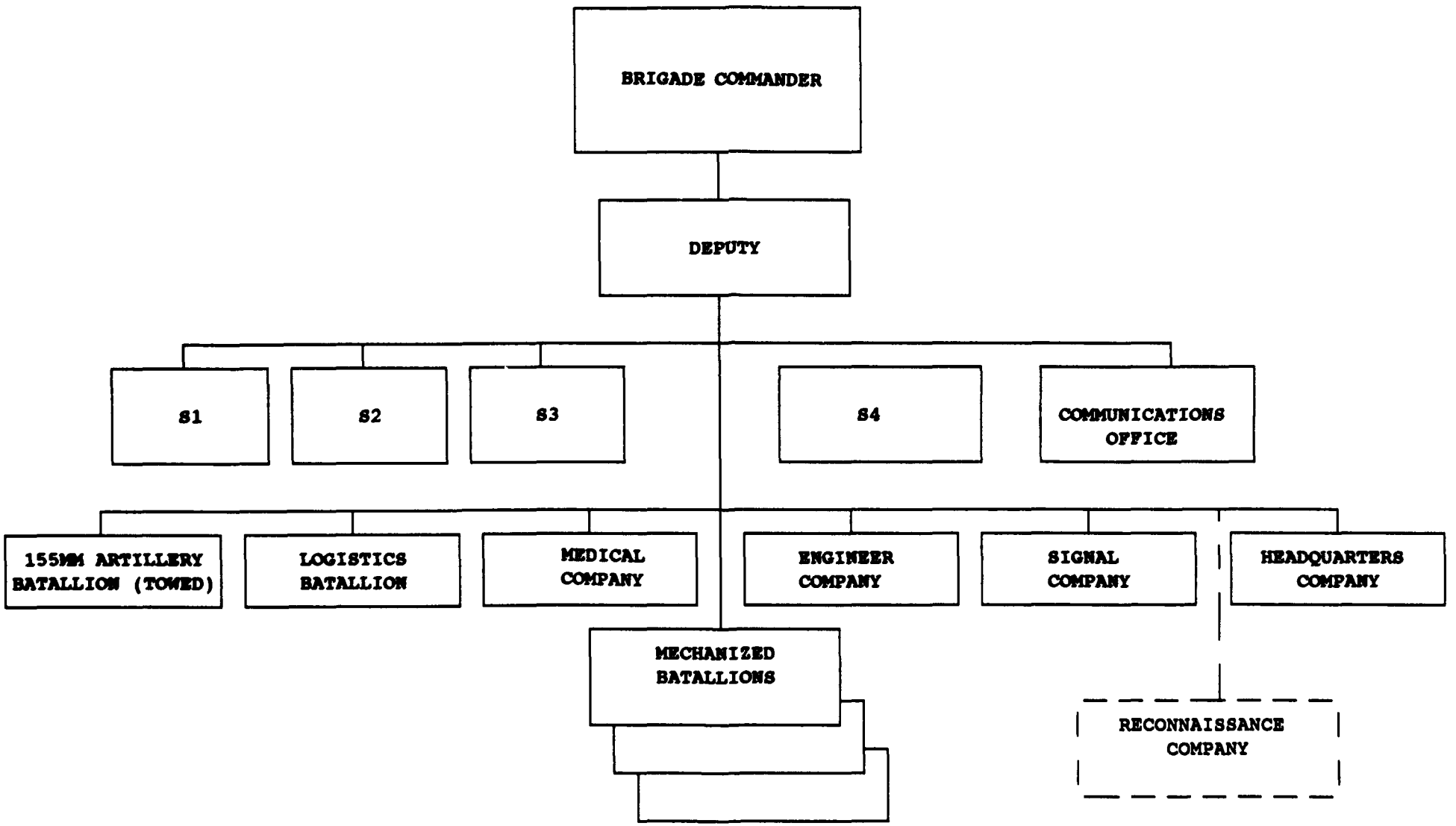


FIGURE 4

ATTACHMENT

SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD (SANG)

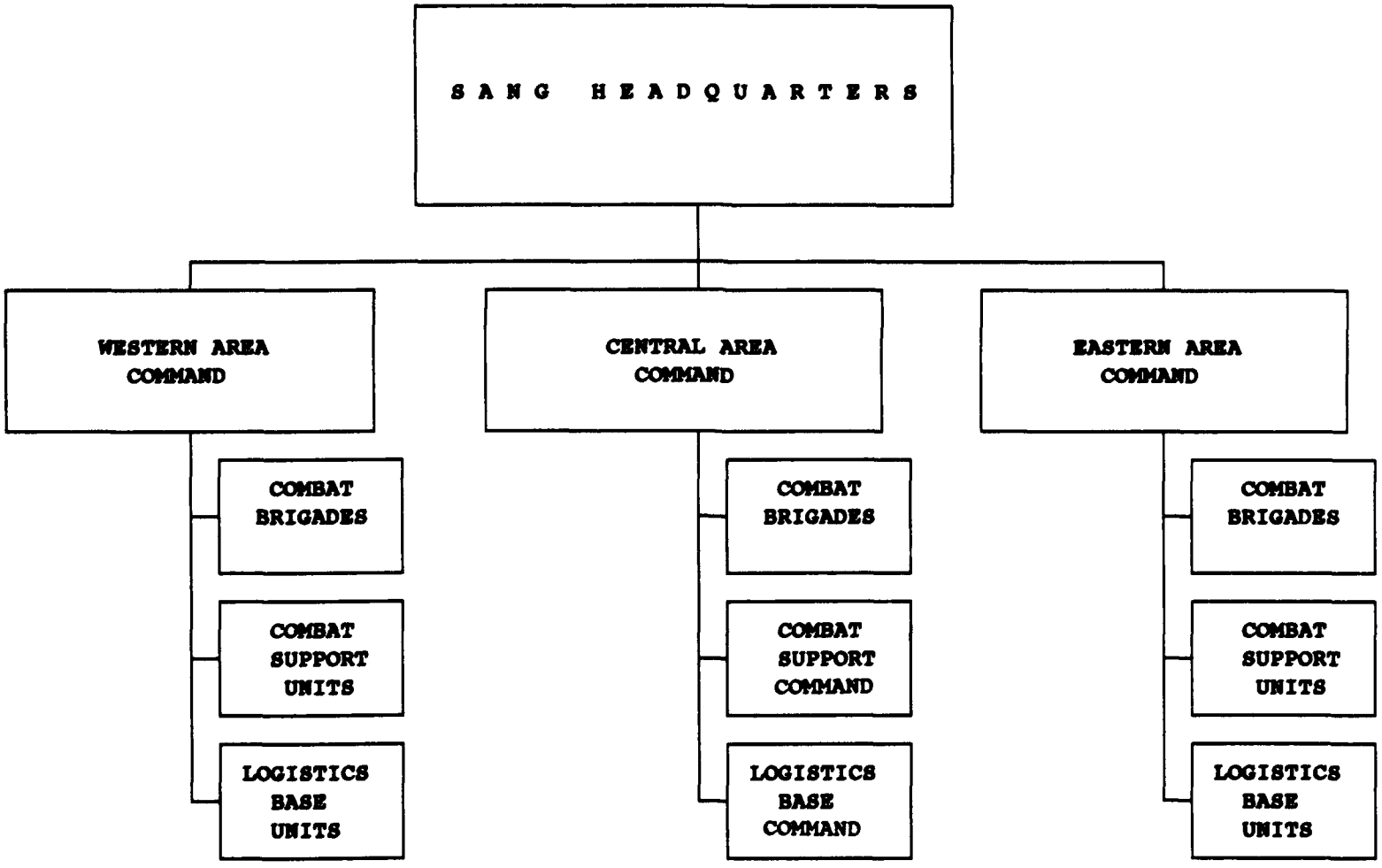


FIGURE 5

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